

## USAID awards \$20 million for public health in Bolivia

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded a new \$19.7 million, 5-year contract for the execution of its program of support to the Bolivian Government's national health plan.

The program will further successful cooperation with the Bolivian public health sector. The health of the population will be improved through the strengthening of national institutions and the provision of high-quality, decentralized health services. The contract complements the bilateral project for integrated health, PROSIN II, implemented by the Ministry of Health.

With this program, USAID continues to support initiatives such as national vaccination campaigns, the fight against infectious diseases and epidemics, as well as maternal-child services throughout the country.

Main accomplishments under the first phase of the program include decentralized health service delivery to an estimated 1.6 million people living in 116 municipalities throughout the country. The new initiative will strengthen decentralized capacities and build upon current achievements.

The new award includes a \$7.4 million grant to CARE and The Population Council, two organizations that will work on child health initiatives and the promotion of research and improved quality of the health services at the municipal level. USAID/Bolivia's broader Health Strategic Objective includes support to private health services, community-oriented health projects in rural areas, and maternal-child care initiatives in periurban and rural communities.

USAID's overall assistance to Bolivia amounts to approximately \$100 million annually. It includes, in addition to improved health of Bolivians, sustainably managing forest, water and biodiversity resources; increasing income opportunities for the poor through enterprise development and increased trade; promoting licit economic growth in coca-growing and associated areas; and increasing confidence in democratic institutions and processes.